

Remarks

The Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the objections to the Claims.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the hypothetical combination of Ishii with Miyakawa and the double patenting rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-12 over Claims 1 and 2 of Miyakawa combined with Ishii. The Applicants respectfully submit that both rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of those Claims.

The Applicants have added new Claims 13-24 in place of the original Claims. Claim 13 is a revised version of original Claim 1 that recites that the coating layer comprises a copolymer of a resin with a light stabilizer component. Support may be found on page 15 of the Specification at lines 6 and 7, for example. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Claim 14 is an amended version of original Claim 2. Claims 15-24 substantially correspond to originals Claims 3-12, respectively.

Turning back to Claim 13, the utilization of a coating layer formed by copolymerization of a resin with a light stabilizer component means that the light stabilizer component is chemically bonded to the resin network. This means that the light stabilizer component remains homogeneously distributed throughout the protective layer. Thus, migration over the course of time is avoided. Copolymerization is an advantageous feature specifically recited in Claim 13 that is nowhere taught or suggested by Ishii or Miyakawa.


In particular, Ishii discloses UV absorbers that are merely added to the resin. As a consequence, there are no chemical bonds between the UV absorber and the resin. This means that migration easily occurs over the course of time which provides for the deleterious aging effects that are problematic of the prior art. Thus, Ishii is inapplicable to the solicited claims.

Miyakawa is still further a field inasmuch as it is completely silent concerning a coating layer having a stabilizer component. Thus, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to make the hypothetical combination of Miyakawa with Ishii, the resulting structure would still be completely different inasmuch as the resulting product would still fail to teach or suggest the claimed aspect wherein the coating layer is formed by copolymerization of a resin with the light stabilizer component. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination is inapplicable to the newly added Claims.

With respect to double patenting, the Applicants respectfully submit that such a rejection is also inapplicable for the reasons set forth above. There is utterly no teachings or suggestions in Miyakawa concerning a coating layer comprising a copolymer of a resin with a light stabilizer component. Thus, the double patenting rejection is also inapplicable to the newly cited Claims.

In the light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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